ALABAMA BAPTIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MINUTES

—OF THE—

FIFTY-FIRST ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

Central Baptist Association,

HELD WITH THE

Rockford Baptist Church, Coosa County, Ala.,

October 2nd, 3rd and 4th, 1895.

OFFICERS.

L. H. HASTIE, MODERATOR..... Marble Valley, Ala.
D. S. MARTIN, CLERK.....Equality, Ala.
T. J. PENNINGTON, TREASURER .....Rockford, Ala.

The next session of the Central Baptist Association will be held with Alexander City Church, Tallapoosa County, Ala., beginning on Wednesday before the first Sunday in October, 1896. To preach the Introductory Sermon, Eld. W. R. Whatley; alternate, Eld. T. A. Kelley.

MONTGOMERY, ALA.:
ALABAMA PRINTING COMPANY.
1895.

ORDER OF BUSINESS.

1. Association Called to Order by the Moderator.
2. Hear Letters from Churches.
3. Elect Moderator, Clerk and Treasurer.
4. Call for Petitionary Letters.
5. Call for Correspondence.
6. Appoint Committees to Report During Session, viz:
   On Religious Exercises.
   Finance and Auditing.
   Correspondence.
   Nominations.
   Documents and Requests.
7. Have Rules of Decorum Read.
8. Call Roll and Erase Absentees.
9. Hear Treasurer's Report and Refer.
10. Hear from Standing Committees.
11. Hear Miscellaneous Resolutions.
12. Give Instructions about Appropriations.
13. Hear Circular Letter.
14. Correct Minutes and Adjourn.

STANDING COMMITTEES TO REPORT AT NEXT SESSION.

State Missions—W. R. Whatley, J. C. Maxwell, T. S. Christian.
Home Missions—W. B. Harmon, O. C. Swindall, J. H Thompson.
Foreign Missions—L. H. Hastie, J. V. Clifton, W. F. Newman.
Sunday Schools—T. P. Moon, E. W. Powell, A. T. Stanley.
Temperance—C. J. Bentley, G. P. Olive, George W. Davis.
State of Religion—A. C. Swindall, J. H. Singleton, R. L. Ennis
Religious Literature—J. D. Hughes, O. P. Bentley, T. J. Pennington.
Education—J. M. Johnson, S. F. Thomas. F. M. Allen.
Central Committee—A. D Bentley, J. T. Edwards, O. P. Looney.
Write Circular Letter—C. J. Bentley.

MINUTES.

Rockford, Ala., Oct. 2, 1895.

The Central Baptist Association, in its Fifty-first Annual Session, assembled with Rockford Baptist church, Coosa Co., Ala., on Wednesday, Oct. 2, 1895.

The Introductory Sermon was preached by Eld. C. J. Bentley at 11 o'clock a. m. Text, "If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily and follow me," Luke 9th chapter 23d verse.

An intermission was then given for dinner.

Afternoon Session.

At 1:30 o'clock the Association assembled at the stand, and was called to order by the Moderator. After singing "How Firm a Foundation," the body was led in prayer by the Moderator, L. H. Hastie.

The letters from the churches were then handed in, and Elds. C. S. Johnson and C. J. Bentley were requested to read them.

The names of the Messengers were then enrolled, as follows:

FIRST DISTRICT.

Alexander City—R. M. Thomas, J. A. Robinson, Dr. E E. Slaton and Eld. W. R. Whatley.
Bethesda—Eld. D. S. Martin, E. Cason.
Liberty—C. P. Woodall.
New Hope—B. W. Young, R. Smith.
Union—R. L. Ennis, G. S. Ward.
Mt. Zion—J. A. Keel, W. L. Stowe, T. L. Upshaw.
New Providence—C. D. Foster.
County Line—Jas. A. Threadgill, Mabry Howle.

SECOND DISTRICT.

Tallassee—A. J. Lilly, John O'Hara.
Friendship—James L. Bishop.
Good Hope—C. D. Leekroy.
Eclectic—John T. Edwards, Oliver Turner, Thomas D. Avant and John Emfinger.
Bethlehem—R. L. Estes.
Refuge—J. B. Mullins.
Harmony—J. H. Colley, W. H. Colley, W. J. Johnson, James Graham.
Santuck—H. M. Thornton, A. P. Johnson, W. T. Hanes.
Pleasant Hill—J. M. Emfinger, Thomas E. Brown.
Beulah—Represented by letter.

THIRD DISTRICT.

Concord—George W. Willbanks, J. C. Moseley, R. S. B. Penton.
Wayside—R. M. Murchinson, L. L Dobbs, J. B. Funderburk.
Providence—E W. Clark, J. S. Rains.
Shady Grove—F. M Allen, W. T. Penton, S. D. Snider.
Olive Branch—W. Y. Keel, W. M. Terrell.
Hatchett Creek—R. C. Hardy.
Antioch—T. A. Kelley, S T. Dennis, B. C. Guy, J. M. Boddie.
Lebanon—W. J. Ruffin, A. A. Harmon, Wesley Holt, C. J. Bentley.
Town Creek—George W. Davis, George W. Batson, F. G. Allen.
Pleasant Ridge—G. C. Floyd, J. N. Hudmon.

FOURTH DISTRICT.

Goodwater—J. E. Grimes, W. J. Conner.
Shiloh—J. E. Pinson, J. N. Howard, Jr., W. S. Selman.
Mt. Olive—W. F. Newman, J. C. Fulmer, J. W. Fulmer, J. A. Arnold.
Union Springs—O. P. Looney, L. H. Hastie, James Hastie.
Salem—W. C. Woodfin, W. R. Miller, E. A. Corley.
Macedonia—J. V. Clifton, W. B. Dunlap, W. B. J. Stone, Jr.
Poplar Springs—Wiley Blankenship, W. A. Atchley.
Rockford—T. J. Pennington, N. Hines, J. A. Todd.
Corinth—M. B. Manning, James M. Conaway.

On motion of B. W. Young, the temporary organization was made permanent, and the former officers resumed their respective duties, as follows: L. H. Hastie, Moderator; D. S. Martin, Clerk; T. J. Pennington, Treasurer.

Petitionary Letters were called for, and the newly constituted church at Corinth received by the Moderator extending the hand of fellowship to the Messengers.

Visiting brethren were invited to seats.

The following committees were appointed to report during the session, viz:

On Finance and Auditing—B. W. Young, R. M. Thomas, J. C. Moseley.
On Religious Exercises—George W. Willbanks, W. R. Miller and the Pastor and Delegates of Rockford Church.
On Correspondence—W. F. Newman, J. T. Edwards, S. T. Dennis.
On Nominations—F. M. Allen, J. A. Robinson, O. P. Looney.
On Documents and Requests—Geo. W. Davis, W. J. Ruffin, W. J. Conner.

Rules of Decorum read.

On motion, the order of service was changed so as to call for correspondents instead of inviting visiting brethren.

The Committee on Religious Exercises reports as follows:

To preach to-night at 7 o'clock, Eld. C. S. Johnson; to-morrow at 11, Eld. G. S. Anderson.

On motion the body adjourned until 9 o'clock Thursday morning.

MORNING SESSION—THURSDAY, OCT. 3.

After devotional exercises, conducted by Bro. J. V. Clifton, the body was called to order at 9 o'clock, and, after singing "Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing," and prayer by Eld. J. H. Colley, proceeded to business by first calling the roll and erasing absentees.

Called for correspondents and received from—

Tuskegee Association—Elds George E. Brewer, George S. Anderson.
Carey Association—Brethren J. M. Luker, B. F. Luker.
Coosa River Association—Elds. C. S. Johnson, C. H. Morgan, J. R. Steeley.
Weogufka Association—Eld. W. W. Hughes.
Morning Star Association (Col.)—Bro. D. S. Swindall.

The Treasurer's report was read, and referred to Finance Committee.

Reports of Standing Committees called for.

On motion, the various reports on missions were called for, to be discussed under one general head.

Report on State Missions read by C. J. Bentley.

There being no report on Home Missions, the report of last year was read, and the Clerk was instructed to have published a summary of the work done by the Home Board for the year 1894-5.

In the absence of a report on Foreign Missions the same course was taken.

Pending the adoption of the above reports, the subject of missions was discussed by Elds. C. J. Bentley, W. R. Whatley, George E. Brewer.

The hour of preaching having arrived, the business was suspended, and Bro. George S. Anderson proceeded to the stand, and, taking the concluding paragraph of the 7th chapter of Matthew's gospel as a text, preached an able and instructive sermon.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

At 1:30 o'clock the body was called to order by the Moderator.

Leave of absence was granted to Brethren Lilly and O'Hara, of Tallassee church, also Bro. Floyd, of Pleasant Ridge.

Bro. J. A. Robinson, of Alexander City church, extended a very cordial invitation to the body to hold its next session with his church, which was unanimously accepted.

Bro. Anderson was granted the privilege of presenting his system of Sermon Structure.

A committee was appointed to draft resolutions relative to Bro. Anderson's work, viz: W. R. Whatley, F. M. Allen, R. M. Murchinson.

RRESOLUTIONS.

The Central Association in Meeting, assembled with Rockford church:

Whereas We have heard with pleasure the statement of Bro. G S. Anderson, with reference to his system of sermon structure, and his work in connection therewith,

Resolved. 1st, That we heartily endorse the system as presented to us by Bro. G. S. Anderson.

2nd. That we commend it to the Baptists of the State as a meritorious part of our denominational work.

3d, That we recommend that the churches of this Association aid in contributions, and otherwise in the scholarships of our ministry on the field in his correspondence course.

ELD. W. R. WHATLEY,
F. M. ALLEN,
R. M MURCHINSON,
ELD. C. J. BENTLEY.

The special memorial services were conducted by Eld. George E. Brewer, and participated in by the following brethren: Brewer, Colley, Steeley, Bentley, C. S. Johnson, and the following letter from Bro. S. B. Ray:

HISSOP, ALA., October 1st, 1895.

MY DEAR OLD BRETHREN: As I saw a request from Bro. Brewer for all the old brethren, especially those that were in the constitution of the Central Association, to try to meet that body at Rockford, I claim myself as being one of the oldest Baptists in the land, dating my Baptist birth to 1826 I was at the constitution of the Central Association, though not a member of that body, from the fact that my church, Old Shiloh, did not go into the constitution till some time after its organization. I don't know of but two men now living who were at that convention; they are Bro. John H. Colley and myself. The infirmity of old age is such that I can't make any effort to be with you all, though it would be a big feast to me. I was once a member of your body ror 33 years in succession. My mind often runs back to the times we used to meet before the stand at our Associations to join in hand-shaking in token of our love for one another, some laughing, some shedding of tears and many rejoicing. It surely was a little foretaste of joys to come. Now, my brethren, as I am nearing the banks of that deep river that will soon bear me to the other shore, I feel that I need your prayers, that, as I go down, my faith may grow stronger and stronger, and

my hope brighter and brighter, that I may be able to say, "Lord, here am I!" May the strongest ties of brotherly love abound in your midst, and your acts be crowned with the best of consequences.

From your old, unworthy brother in Christ,

STEPHEN B. RAY.

N. B.—As I am not able to be at your meeting, I send you this little scrip as my representative. S. B. R.

Bro. Brewer had complied with the request of the Association, made through a committee appointed by the 5th Sunday meeting at Union church in March, by preparing and having published a history of the Central Association, from its organization to the present time, which he submitted to the body.

The following resolutions, submitted by Eld. W. R. Whatley, were unanimously adopted:

RESOLUTIONS.

Whereas, Bro. George E Brewer, in his faithfulness and devotion to the cause of Christ, has put himself to the trouble and expense of writing and publishing a history of the Central Association; and,

Whereas, It is deemed by this Association that such history will add greatly to its interest and prosperity by keeping a record of its work since its organization in 1845 to 1895, and inspiring its future labors with energy and Christian zeal, by the Christian lives of its predecessors; therefore, be it

Resolved, 1st. That this Association accept and adopt the work of Bro. Brewer, and express its appreciation of it by taking it off his hands and sell or otherwise dispose of it, so as to compensate him for his work, and liquidate the expense of publishing it, by putting it in the hands of the colporter, or otherwise as in its discretion it sees fit, with the request that the purchasers preserve the copies as a valuable contribution to the interest of the Association.

Committee on Religious Exercises reports as follows:

To preach to-night, Bro. George S. Anderson; to-morrow at 11 a. m., Bro. George E. Brewer.

On motion the body adjourned to Friday morning 9 o'clock.

MORNING SESSION—FRIDAY, OCT. 4.

After devotional services, conducted by Eld. J. R. Steeley, the body was called to order at 9 o'clock.

Prayer by Eld. T. A. Kelley.

The journal of yesterday read and corrected.

Returned correspondence, as follows:

Weogufka Association—J. V. Clifton, O. P. Looney, A. A. Harmon.
Morning Star Association (Col.)—D. S. Martin, J. E. Pinson, E. Cason.

The reports on Missions taken up and adopted, as follows:

REPORT ON STATE MISSIONS.

DEAR BRETHREN: At the last meeting of the Baptist State Convention in July, 1894, the time for meeting in 1895 was put back to the fall of the year. This being the case, a full report of the State Mission work can not be had until after the November meeting in Selma.

From the source of information at hand, we learn that, as to the general work, it stands about as suggested last year in the report which you will find in the minutes.

The State Board has yet the supervision of Missions in the State, Colportage Work, Ministerial Education and collection of funds for the Home and Foreign Boards. The mission and book departments are yet in Montgomery, in rooms with the Alabama Baptist.

The number of men employed this year is forty, five less than the number for the work last year; thirteen of this forty are missionary colporters, two more colporters than last year.

The men report an increase of work over last year's, you will find in Secretary Crumpton's report, appended to this paper.

Brethren, your committee feels that in State Missions underlies the great superstructure of mission work; and, this being the case, how important it is that this work be pushed among the Baptists of our State.

The Orphans' Home is calling upon us loudly for aid to meet its demands, and we must not neglect this work which lies so near the hearts of God's people. Then we notice in a late issue of the Alabama Baptist that President McGaha requests our people to not neglect ministerial education, for he says somebody now owes $800 for expenses of ministerial students at the Howard, and, in addition to this, help is also needed for Alabama students in S. B T. Seminary.

Secretary Crumpton asks the churches to come to the relief of the Board in paying the money borrowed from the Greensboro church many years ago, as the brethren wish to rebuild the house of the Lord in Greensboro. (See Secretary's report appended.)

REPORT BAPTIST STATE BOARD OF MISSIONS FOR ONE YEAR ENDING JULY 1, 1895

The following annual report is published to enable chairmen of committees in the Association to make their reports. The regular report will not be made till November for the Convention which meets the 13th of that month in Selma: W. B. C.

SUMMARY OF WORK FOR THE YEAR ENDING JULY 1, 1895.

Number of men employed	40	Days of service	5 011
of these 13 were Mis. Colporters.		Miles traveled	30 461
Sermons delivered	2 332	Addresses made	1 132
Churches constituted	1	Number of persons baptized	337
Baptized by others	369	Received by letter	305
Restored	42	Sunday Schools organized	43
Ladies' Mis. Societies organized	10	Prayer meetings organized	101
Prayer meetings held	639	Number of visits to preaching sta.	301
Number of churches visited	613	Number of visits made	7 127
Subscribers to Ala. Baptist secured	287	Sub's to "For. Mis. Jour." secured	129
Pages of tracts distributed	23 566	Meeting houses commenced	7
Meeting houses finished	8	Money col. for meeting houses	$ 477 90
Money collected for Missions	$1,575 27	Money col. for Min. Education	15 50
Money col. for Orphans' Home	92 89	Money col. for Bible & Col. Board	42 40
Number of books sold	994	Value of books sold	474 72
Number of Bibles & Tests. sold	617	Value of Bibles & Testaments sold.	600 83
Number of Bibles & Tests donated.	80	Value of Bibles & Tests. donated.	14 90
Families found destitute of Bible	40	19 young preachers helped in How. College, and 6 in the Seminary.	

BAPTIST STATE BOARD OF MISSIONS.

RECEIPTS FOR THE YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 1895.

*State Missions	$7,748 86	Church building	$ 3 01
Judson debt	140 90	Bible and Colportage	340 89
Children's Day	128 31	Centennial Missions	4 00
Ministerial Education	1,936 81	Orphanage	372 92
H. M. Debt	54 95	Church build'g, El Paso church	65 75
Pura Cova	58 30	Cuban Missions	7 50
Indian Missions	3 72	Cuban Missions, Girl	9 00
Home Misslons	3,341 13	African Missions	4 70
Mexican Girl	18 00	Miss Kelly	348 75
Madeira Inst	54 00	Sunbeams Missionary	52 25
Birmingham Missionary	198 31	Foreign Missions	3,828 50
China Missions	118 55	North China Missions	20 90
Japan Missions	17 06	Italian Missions	5 00
Foreign Mission debt	568 76	Howard College	24 41
Aged and Infirm Ministers	12 56	Judson Institute	22 20
Total receipts			$19,510 09

*Of this amount $300 is included from Baptist S. S. Board, Nashville.

BOOK DEPARTMENT.

Total receipts from "Contributors:"		
From churches	$325 49	
" A. B. P. S., Bibles and Testaments	150 00	
" B. S. S. Board, Bibles and Testaments	25 00	$ 500 49
Total sales		5352 54

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT FOR FIVE YEARS.

1890.	For State Missions	$8,795	For all purposes		$20,265
1891.	" "	8,255	" "		19,280
1892.	" "	7,617	" "		19,197
1893.	" "	8,783	" "		24,414
1894.	Short year—only 8 months.				
1895.	For State Missions	$7,748	" "		19,510

Respectfully submitted,

C. J. BENTLEY,
T. P. MOON,
A. T. STANLEY,
Committee.

REPORT ON HOME MISSIONS.

With the view of ascertaining some just idea of the destitution of our Southern land, the Board addressed three questions to the Corresponding Secretaries of our State Boards, as follows:

1. How many men would be required to supply the religious destitution of your State?
2. What amount would be required to support them?
3. What amount would be needed to supply them with houses of worship and other necessary equipment?

Answers received from eight States—Kentucky, Mississippi, Maryland Missouri, North Carolina, Louisiana, Tennessee and Texas—show that for these States alone there would be required 1,392 missionaries, $480,000 to support them, besides what their fields of labor would supply, and about an equal amount for church building annually for the next ten years. This means that, including the remaining States within the Convention, there would be required to supply our religious destitution 2,000 missionaries, an annual expenditure of not less than $500 000 to support them and afford them houses of worship and other facilities requisite for the work.

These facts force upon us the conclusion that, great as has been our success, the work of our Baptist churches has been only half accomplished, and, in view of the rapid increase of our population in the near future, it becomes us to redouble our diligence, and let the dawning of the coming century see a thousand missionaries working under our Board, State and Home, gathering from this whitening harvest sheaves for the garner of our Lord.

SUMMARY—WORK FOR THE YEARS ENDING MAY,	1894	1895
Missionaries	381	425
Weeks of labor	16,289	11 466
Churches and stations	1,229	3,484
Sermons and addresses	34,024	46,620
Prayer meetings	3,917	5,774
Baptisms	4,470	5,921
Received by letter	4,039	6 519
Total additions	8,509	10,564
Sunday Schools		2,110
Teachers and pupils	19 381	23,702
Religious visits	52,197	52,089
Churches constituted	133	178
Houses of worship built	67	52
Bibles and Testaments distributed	1,150	7,392
Number of tracts distributed	390,750	584,938

REPORT ON FOREIGN MISSIONS.

[Have not been able to obtain any concise tabulated report on Foreign Missions, and hence no report appears.—CLERK.]

The regular order suspended, and the report of the Central Committe read; also, report of Bro. C. H. Morgan, colporter of the Central Association.

On motion, the matter deferred until afternoon.

There being no report on Sabbath Schools, the following resolution, submitted by C. J. Bentley, was adopted:

Resolved, That the Central Association does hereby urge upon our churches the importance of the study of God's Word as our only rule of faith and practice, and that we continue to faithfully teach the Bible to our children in the Sunday School.

The report on Temperance was submitted by T. A. Kelly and adopted, as follows:

REPORT ON TEMPERANCE.

Your committee on Temperance would submit the following report:

1st. The saloon is beyond a doubt one of the greatest evils of modern civilization. Drinking and drunkenness are bad enough, but an institution devoted to encouraging drinking habits and concentrating the evil effects of inebriety is much worse. Nations of other ages have been cursed and ruined by strong drink; what, then, shall the great states of to-day expect when strong drink is made a source of public revenue, and when a licensed and powerful institution is supported for the besotting of the people? The educational power of the saloon is very great. Talk of correcting the drink evil by moral suasion only, for it leaves out of consideration the tremendous power of immoral suasion of the saloon.

The saloon is open all the time; its life depends upon the creation of fresh patronage, and it influences a constantly shifting class of people. The church and the school are open part of the time, and their lessons are repeated over and over to the same persons. The history of the last twenty years of temperance work indicates plainly that the saloon will get men started into drinking habits faster than lectures can persuade them to sign the pledge.

During this period the consumption per capita of distilled spirits and wines has remained practically stationary, while that of malt liquors has increased amazingly. We learn that, in the United States alone, that the consumption of beer has increased, since 1840, 1,675 per cent., of wine 400 per cent., and of ardent spirits over 200 per cent., making an average of 787.5 per cent. increase in the spirituous or liquid drinks During the same period the population increased about 217 per cent. Such facts demonstrate the inefficiency of the common method in use in fighting the saloon.

There is another standpoint from which to reckon the power of the saloon, that is, from the force engaged in the liquor traffic.

The total number of those engaged in this traffic must approach very near two per cent. of the entire adult population. The educational power of such a body of men is *tremendous*.

The partial investigations allowed in some of the States show that fully 84 per cent. of the crimes committed are due to liquor. Then, probably, 75 per cent. of the cost of courts is chargeable to the same cause; and who would undertake to estimate the *wretchedness of ruined homes, the pauperism, insanity and self-murders* which are traceable to the *liquor cause?*

Under these existing circumstances, even the man who abhors whisky is compelled to pay for it; but some will say, "Oh, how is this?" Let us ask then who pays the tax to defray the expenses of the courts, to try the crimes caused by the uncalled for use of whisky? The drunkard surely doesn't do it Then it must be the man who doesn't drink.

2nd. Who supports and keeps up the saloon, is it the hard drinker alone? We would say no, for we are of the opinion that one of the best patrons that the saloon has is what might be called the moderate drinker, the man

that buys whisky by the quart or half gallon, and drinks a little every day, and, as soon as it is gone, buys again; and we doubt not but what the majority of these moderate drinkers have got their names enrolled on the church book and claim to be Christians. Some of your committee remember a few years ago, while this question of temperance was being discussed at a session of this body, there were messengers present from churches who advocated the temperance cause, and who voted for the adoption, of the temperance report; and, in less than three months, some of those messengers were seen hauling whisky from the city of Montgomery by the jug full to celebrate Christmas with (as the saying is), and when approached on the subject would say, "Oh! I hardly ever drink, only just a little about Christmas." (Brethren, please remember that those Christmas days should be sacred to us, for this is about the time that heaven gave up its precious Jewel, to open up a way that such as we might be saved.) Examine the petitions of the saloon men that are presented to our courts to obtain licenses for the sale of whisky, and see if such licenses were not often obtained by the signatures of those who claim to be church members.

3rd. The sword upon the land, where are the watchmen? The liquor power has the country by the throat. It is intrenched behind statutes which make it the pet of the nation. With twenty names upon a petition it can set up its infamous business in the midst of a thousand opposers An amy with millions of money to back it, it fights its battles in secret, using bribery and every corrupt means. It helps with its money to support the government, and is allowed, in return, to rob the poor and ignorant, and debauch society. The country grows poorer and the liquor kings get richer. Where are the watchmen? What are they doing? Of one thing we are certain, they are not sounding the alarm. We hear some preachers occasionally holding up the sin of drunkenness, but never a word about drunkard-makers; never a word about this State partnership with the still and the saloon; never a word about the awful sin of educating our children on blood money; never a word to show how the monster has entwined himself about men; never a word to show that the money paid for the privilege is more than lost by the cost of courts and officers and prisons, to say nothing of property lost, characters lost, and souls lost. The drunkard, the liquor vendor, the man who rents his house for the bar, and the men who sign the petition are retained in the membership of the church. Where are the watchmen? If, from every pulpit in the State, the alarm was sounded and every phase of this devilish business was exposed, there would be such a stir created that the old monster would tremble on his throne.

Let the watchmen begin to sound the alarm at once, and the men of Israel help, and then their power for destroying this monster will be felt.

How long, O Lord, how long will thy people keep silent?

Respectfully submitted,

T. A. Kelley,
J. H. Hickman, Com.

Report on State of Religion read and adopted, as follows:

REPORT ON STATE OF RELIGION.

Your committee on State of Religion beg leave to submit the following report: While the spiritual condition of our churches is not what it ought to be, yet we feel that it has been much improved during the past few months. God has graciously poured out his blessings upon our churches, for which our people seem profoundly thankful, and disposed to render more faithful service to his great and holy name.

Respectfully submitted,

J. H. Colley, Ch'n.

The report on Religious Literature was read and adopted, as follows:

REPORT ON RELIGIOUS LITERATURE.

This is, perhaps, the age of literature. The multiplication of books, papers and other periodicals, seems almost limitless. They are upon all subjects, mechanical, agricultural, horticultural, the arts, fashions, politics, philo-

sophical, scientific, skeptical and religious. Religious literature is by no means neglected in its production, but we fear more neglected by its votaries as to study than the followers of any other subject neglect theirs. The votaries of fashion take and carefully study the plates and directions; the politician does not fail to supply himself with current literature on party and measures; the scientist keeps in touch through the press with the masters of his art; the lawyer and physician supply themselves with the periodicals of their profession, and the "Field and Farm," the "Gardener," "Cultivator" and kindred papers lie around the tables of the progressive farmer. But not so certainly do we find current religious literature in the families of professed Christians, while sometimes even the Bible itself is absent. But still there is, perhaps now, some progress in the amount taken and read.

The basis of all true religious literature, and the best of all, is the Bible. It came from God; it tells of God. It also tells of man, what he is, why he was made, the destiny that awaits him, and all things connected with him It claims to be of God. Was produced by men, but these men were moved to their work, and guided in it by the Holy Spirit, who is the spirit of truth; therefore, the book itself is truth—the truth of God. Being so, its statements are to be relied upon, whether as statements of historical fact, preceptive doctrines, significant ordinances, laws of conduct, positive or negative, with present and future penalties attached to their violation, as well as rewards for obedience to them.

No reading is more instructive, for its history is the most ancient and reliable, and, while giving the facts thereof, also gives the prime cause and ultimate results. It is condensed but comprehensive. It paints with no false coloring its heroes, nor hides their faults and sins. Its analysis of human thought and feeling is perfect and true; its poetry is sublime and inspiring; its experiences are varied and far reaching. It reveals, truly, the rewards of right conduct, and the sure punishment of evil. It reveals the workings of human minds and hearts, and the motives prompting It declares what has been, is now, and is to come. It outlines human history to its end, though yet unwrought, and the ultimate object of it all. It reveals the prime cause of all things, and why they exist. Let it, then, be studied as the first, the purest, the best.

Next to it comes the productions, either in books or periodicals, of those who have given themselves to the work of unfolding the teachings of this wonderful Book of books, the current accomplishment of the deeds of its devotees, whose lives are swayed by its teachings These books should be studied carefully, always in the light of the Bible, and along with it, to get the help theological works may render in the interpretation of Bible doctrines. Biographical works should be read to learn what attainments the followers of Christ have reached when devoted to him and governed by his teachings. Religious history should be read to show how God has led his people in the past; and religious papers, so as to know the present providences of God over his people, and the progress they are making under his guidance in carrying out the great commission, to preach the gospel to every creature, and so keep in touch with fellow-laborers in the vineyard of God.

No man can be so useful a Christian, in the full measure of usefulness, who does not supply himself with a reasonable amount of such helps; nor can his family be so well rounded out for the duties of life without it.

We would, therefore, recommend each head of a Christian family, and each one who has no family, to not fail in having a reasonable supply of each kind. We feel assured that each one can secure such supply as may be needed if he or she but wills it, for God has promised to withhold no good thing from them that walk uprightly. If the effort is made to reach it, God will open the way. There are none who do not expend for useless things, if not hurtful ones, as much as would secure the supply. Let everyone, then, resolve to supply himself and family with his own Bible, his State denominational paper and some such others as he can afford, with some good theological books, some religious biographies of the good and great, and some religious romances permeated with Bible truths, and suggestive of practical lessons in home and community religion.

Sunday School literature, of a helpful character, should be plentifully supplied by each church. These may be had in the Convention Series, or the publications of the American Baptist Publication Society. The A. B. P. Society is prepared to furnish an excellent supply of Bibles and the other literature suggested, and you can be supplied by addressing F. J. Paxon, 93 Whitehall St. Atlanta, Ga.

Brethren, let us equip ourselves as well as we can for the warfare with sin which waxes hotter day by day. A combat is just ahead of us, requiring all the bravery and best equipment of the valiant Christian soldier.

GEO. E. BREWER, Ch'n,
L. H. HASTIE,
T. J. PENNINGTON.

Report on Education read by Bro. A. D. Bentley, and adopted, as follows:

REPORT ON EDUCATION.

Relative to education, there is but one reason why any body opposes it. That is, it is not understood. In the proper sense, it means training the mind in the right direction. It does not take any particular line of training to develop the mind—mind-development is as natural as the growth of a tree. It comes from the contact of sense susceptibility with developing environment. It commences the very moment a child looks in the face of its mother. It continues from that time to old age and the grave. What the contact is, the development will inevitably be. There is nothing else to beget intellectual life. If right, the activities of life will be in the right direction; if wrong, they will be in the wrong direction. The world is good or bad, according to good or bad activities in human life. The reason there is so much more evil than there is good is, there are more bad activities than good ones. All this comes from the absence of mental training in the right direction.

We have our denominational literary schools and our theological seminaries for the education of our young people. They are presided over by good, efficient Christian men, whose devotion to God's cause is evidenced by the faithfulness of their labors. These institutions merit all the sympathy and support we can possibly give them.

The Judson, the Howard and the Seminary, at Louisville, have special claims upon us by reason of their availability to us.

To those who object to education, we would ask how it is that anybody knows anything otherwise than by study and training. Were there nothing of the kind, who or what would we have, worth anything, for the uplifting of humanity? In this connection we learn that Bro. C. J. Bentley contemplates an effort to attend a session of the Seminary at Louisville. Your committee suggest that the Association ascertain if this be true, and recommend him to the faculty of the Seminary, and help him to the extent possible.

We note, too, that Bro. G. S. Anderson, of Auburn, is engaged in a work that commends itself with much favor to the Association and the denomination of the State. It is instruction in sermon structure. It has Bible warrant in Paul's injunction to Timothy, to study to show himself approved of God, a workman that needeth not be ashamed. Paul, to the Corinthians, also speaks of diversity of spiritual gifts. It seems to your committee that, for this work, Bro. Anderson is specially gifted in call, qualification and industry. Over one hundred are now enlisted in the work under him. It has, for its object, instruction upon every phase of sermon building, scientifically considered, which develops a text into the force of great gospel power. He is doing a work on the field among young ministers out of touch with any special opportunities in this line. In short, all of our educational interests need our undivided support.

The hour for preaching having arrived, Bro. Brewer proceeded to the stand and preached from the text, "Lord, it is good for us to be here," etc., Matthew 17:4.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

The body met pursuant to adjournment.

The Committee on Nominations reported as follows:

REPORT ON NOMINATIONS.

We, your committee on Nominations, beg leave to make the following report: To preach the Introductory Sermon at next session of the Central Association—Eld. W R. Whatley; alternate, Eld. T. A. Kelley. Central Committee—Brethren A. D. Bentley, J T. Edwards and O. P. Looney. To Write Circular Letter—Eld. C. J. Bentley. Delegate to S. B. Convention—Eld. D. S. Martin; alternate, Eld C. J. Bentley.

Respectfully submitted,

F. M. ALLEN,
J. A. ROBINSON,
O. P. LOONEY.

The matter of settlement with Bro. Morgan, as colporter, was referred to the new Central Committee.

Report on Correspondence adopted as follows:

REPORT ON CORRESPONDENCE.

We, your committee on Correspondence, beg leave to report: That, on account of the development of spirituality derived therefrom, we, therefore, heartily recommend the same of the Central Association, and solicit correspondence from other Associations.

We also highly appreciate the beloved brethren with us at the present session, viz: Geo. E. Brewer, Geo. S. Anderson, from Tuskegee Association; C. S. Johnson, C. H. Morgan, J. R. Steeley, from the Coosa River Association; J. M. Luker, from the Carey Association; W. W. Hughes, from the Weogufka Association, and D. S. Swindall, from the Morning Star Association (Col.).

Respectfully submitted,

W. I. NEWMAN,
J. T. EDWARDS,
S. T. DENNIS, Com.

Report on Documents and Requests read and adopted, as follows:

REPORT ON DOCUMENTS AND REQUESTS.

DEAR BRETHREN: Your committee on Documents and Requests find but little to claim our attention, but we feel it our duty to earnestly request the churches of the Central Association to do their part in paying the debt to the Greensboro brethren, in order to assist them in building a house of the Lord in Greensboro.

Respectfully submitted,

GEO. W. DAVIS,
W. J. CONNER,
W. J. RUFFIN, Com.

Report of Central Committee read and adopted, also report C. H. Morgan, as colporter, as follows:

REPORT OF CENTRAL COMMITTEE.

Your committee beg leave to submit the following report: Under and by authority delegated to us by your body, we employed Bro. C. H. Morgan as missionary andcolporter, to labor in our bounds for the associational year of 1894–95, for the sum of $250. That, under said contract, said Bro. Morgan was permitted to serve two churches. Bro. Morgan has rendered good and faithful service, as shown by his report herewith submitted, and we would ask that said brother be paid the said amount of $250, less the profits received, amounting to $38.50, leaving a balance due Bro. Morgan of $193.50.

Respectfully submitted,

R. M. MURCHINSON, Ch'n.

REPORT OF C. H. MORGAN AS COLPORTER OF CENTRAL ASS'N.

I beg leave to make the following report of the work done as colporter: I entered the work the third Sunday in Dec., 1894. Number of miles traveled, 2,189; visits made, 472; sermons preached, 114: baptized, 17; churches constituted, 1 The Association making no provision for the free distribution of Bibles, and, finding a great need for it, I asked churches for contributions for this work which resulted as follows: Received $3.95; number of Testaments distributed, 24.

C. H. MORGAN, Colporter.

REPORT OF FINANCE COMMITTEE.

We, your committee on Finance, beg leave to submit the following report:

Received at this sess on in—	CASH	VOUCHERS
For State Missions	$ 69 39	$ 29 70
For Home Missions	11 16	5 05
For Foreign Missions	37 45	9 01
Indigent Ministers	35 06	6 55
Ministerial Education	2 50	4 75
Minutes	49 05	
Orphans' Home	15 30	46 16
Bible and Colportage	5 65	16 41
Associational Purposes	72 39	85
Public Collection	14 65	11 10
Total	$311 91	$129 58
Grand total		$441 49

We have examined the Treasurer's report and find it correct, and a balance on hand of $9 97, making a total of $441 49. There are vouchers to the credit of some churches, not contained in this report, that will be sent to the Clerk to be added to this report.

Respectfully submitted,

B. W. YOUNG, Ch'n,
J. C. MOSELEY,
R. M. THOMAS.

TREASURER'S REPORT.

T. J. PENNINGTON, Treasurer of Central Association for 1895.

To balance on hand from previous year	$ 27 24	
cash received	292 17	
vouchers	241 58	
Total		$560 99

CR.

By amount paid Bro. Martin, Clerk	$ 49 50	
" " " Colley	21 30	
" " " Steeley	21 29	
" " " Crumpton	210 85	
" " " Stewart	6 50	
Total		$309 44

Leaving a balance of cash on hand of $9 97.

Respectfully submitted,

T. J. PENNINGTON, Treas.

MISCELLANEOUS RESOLUTIONS.

Resolved, That a collection be now taken for the benefit of Eld. J. R. Steeley.

Resolved, That the balance in the hands of the Treasurer of last year, together with the amount sent up for Ministerial Education, be appropriated to the benefit of C. J. Bentley at Seminary.

Resolved, That this Association send greetings to Bro. S. B. Ray.

Resolved, That we tender our grateful thanks to the Rockford church and vicinity for their kind hospitality shown us while in their midst.

Resolved, That the Treasurer be instructed to take up the note due at the bank; also, to pay Bro. Morgan the balance due him, and appropriate the balance of funds, State Missions, Bible and Colportage and Associational Purposes, to the payment of account due the Bible and Colportage Board.

Resolved, That the Clerk be paid $15 out of the minute funds, and the balance be used in printing and distributing the minutes.

The body then adjourned to meet with Alexander City church, on Wednesday before the first Sunday in October, 1896.

While singing "God Be with You Till we Meet Again," the parting hand was extended with strong manifestations of brotherly love, after which Bro. J. R. Steeley led in prayer.

D. S. MARTIN, *Clerk*. L. H. HASTIE, MODERATOR.

DEDICATED TO THE MEMORY OF

Sister Susan Taylor, of County Line Church.

Brethren. J. C. Penton and R. S. Penton, of Concord Church.

Brethren Wm. S. Justice, A. J. Hopson, W. J. Bass and Sister Tula Wynn, of Eclectic Church.

Sister S. J. Harkins, of Goodwater Church.

Sister Addie Thompson, of Harmony Church.

Sister Elizabeth Welch, of Liberty Church.

Brethren J. A. Stanley, Tyler Buckhalter, of Lebanon Church.

Sister S E. Hand, of Olive Branch Church.

Sister Annie Spigener, of Shiloh Church.

Brother L A. Sheppard, Sister Nancy A. Johnson, of Santuck Church.

Brother Geo. E. Litaker, of Salem Church.

Sister Texas Waits, of Shady Grove Church.

Sister L. J. Cardwell, of Wayside Church.

CONSTITUTION.

ARTICLE 1. The Association shall be composed of all regular ordained and licensed ministers who are members of churches within our bounds, together with the members regularly chosen by the churches within our bounds.

ART. 2. The members so chosen shall produce letters from their respective churches certifying their appointment, together with the state of their churches since their last representation But by a two-thirds vote of the body a member of any church, without being regularly chosen, may, upon good reasons, be admitted to represent such church when no one regularly chosen be present.

ART. 3 The members so chosen and convened shall be called the "CENTRAL ASSOCIATION."

ART. 4. This Association shall sit as an advisory council, and shall have no power to lord it over God's heritage, nor infringe on the internal rights of the churches; but may withdraw from any church not orthodox in principle according to the Scriptures. and who shall fail to represent at an Association, and shall refuse to account for such failure at the next regular session.

ART 5. Any church desiring admission into this Union shall petition by letter and messengers, and if found orthodox, shall be received by the Association by the Moderator giving the messenger the right hand of fellowship

ART. 6. Any church having a public gift, before proceeding to license the same. should call the gifts of two or more sister churches, or experienced members, to unite with the church in conference to examine into the nature of the gift, and upon due approval, licensed to be granted, and reported to the next association.

ART. 7. Every church in our Union, whose membership shall be 100 or under, shall be entitled to three delegates, and for every thirty three over 100 they shall be entitled to one additional delegate.

ART. 8. No query shall be taken into consideration in this Association, except in cases of serious difficulty which cannot be settled by the church, nor messengers from other churches.

ART. 9. This Association may correspond with any Baptist benevolent institution it shall deem expedient.

ART. 10. This Association shall have a fund, supplied by the voluntary contributions of the churches; and all moneys thus contributed shall be transmitted from the churches by their messengers, and paid over to the Committee on Finance (the committee shall be annually appointed), whose duty it shall be to receive in charge the Association fund, and dispose of the same agreeebly to order, and make at every session a fair and circumstantial report of their proceedings.

ART. 11. The officers of this Association are to be a Moderator, Clerk and Treasurer, to be elected from her own body.

ART. 12. Difference of opinion as to benevolent institutions of the day shall never be made a question of fellowship in this Association.

ART. 13. Amendments or alterations to this Constitution may be made at any regular session—two thirds of the members present concurring therein.

RULES OF DECORUM.

1. The Moderator, Clerk and Treasurer shall be chosen by a majority of the members of the body, and shall hold their offices until another election.

2 It shall be the duty of the Moderator to preside in the deliberations of the Association, and keep order by enforcing the rules of this Decorum, and he shall not be allowed to vote, except in cases of a tie, and then shall give the casting vote.

3. It shall be the duty of the Association, first, to provide for the general union of the churches, and to devise ways and means for the spread of the gospel, and the promotion of our Redeemer's kingdom upon earth; second,

to maintain correspondence with sister associations, and thus preserve a chain of communication among the churches; third, to give advice to the churches in cases of difficulty; fourth, to invite visiting ministers of our faith and order to seats with us, to aid in our deliberations.

4. At each annual session there shall be appointed by the Association an executive Committee, consisting of ——, to whom shall be referred all matters touching the spread of the gospel in our bounds, and report thereon at the next session of the Association.

5. There shall be appointed, as in the last preceding article, a committee of finance, to whom all funds sent up by the churches to the Association shall be paid; whose duty it shall be to report thereon during the session.

6 No motion shall be entertained by the Association until it shall be seconded; it shall then be taken up, opened for debate and finally decided, unless withdrawn by the mover.

7. Every query sent up to this Association by any church in the Union shall be read, and put to a vote by the Moderator whether it shall be debated; but if not, it shall be withdrawn; provided, always, that those be first considered which may effect the union of the churches.

8. Every member who speaks shall rise from his seat and address the Moderator; he shall not be interrupted while speaking unless he depart from the subject.

9. No member shall speak more than three times on the same subject unless by leave of the Association.

10. There shall be no talking, whispering, or moving about during the time of any public discussion, nor any reflection cast upon the speaker.

11. Any delegate wishing to leave the Association before its adjournment, shall be required to make the cause known, and obtain leave of absence by a vote of the body; and if any delegate shall absent himself without leave, he shall be considered guilty of disorder, and shall be erased from the list of delegates.

12. A member violating any of these rules shall be reproved by the Moderator.

13. This Decorum shall be read at each annual session of the Association, immediately after its organization.

14. This Decorum may, at any regular session, be altered or amended, a majority of the body concurring therein.

ARTICLES OF FAITH, PROOF TEXTS.

Article 1. We believe in one true and living God; the Father, Son and Holy Ghost—three in one—1 John v. 7; Matt. 3:15-17; John 14:16; Matt. 28:19.

Art. 2. We believe that the Scriptures of the Old and New Testament are the Word of God, and the only rule of faith and practice.—2 Tim. 3:16-17; 2 Peter 19:20 21.

Art. 3. We believe in the doctrine of original sin; that Adam disobeyed God, and that all mankind inherited a sinful nature from Adam.—Gen. 3:1-17; Psalms 51:5; Rom. 5:12; Eph 2:1.

Art. 4 We believe in man's inability to recover himself from the fallen state he is in by nature, by himself alone —Zach. 5:6; John 6:44; 1 Cor. 11: 14; Rom. 8:7-8.

Art. 5. We believe in the doctrine of election by grace, according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, and belief of the truth.—Rom. 11:4-7; 2 Thes. 2:23; 1 Peter 1:2.

Art. 6. We believe that sinners are justified in the sight of God, only by the imputed righteousness of Jesus Christ.—Acts 13:39; Rom 4-11-12 23 24-25; Gal. 2:16.

Art. 7 We believe in the preservation of saints.—Psalms 37:23 24-28; Micah 7:8; John 5:24 and 10:28; Rom. 8:35-39; 1 Peter 1:3-5.

Art. 8. We believe that baptism and the Lord's Supper are ordinances of Jesus Christ, of perpetual obligation, and that none but true believers are

fit subjects of the ordinances.—John 1:33; Matt. 3:13-17; Matt. 28:19-10; Acts 1:22 and 2:41; Matt. 26:6-30; 1 Cor. 11:23-26

ART. 9 We believe in one Lord, one faith, and one baptism, and immersion only is baptism.—Eph. 4:5; Rom. 6:4 6; Col. 2:12; Acts 8:38-39; Mark 1:9

ART. 10. We believe that no one is qualified to preach and administer the ordinances of the Gospel except he be called of God, as was Aaron, is set apart by, and is in good standing with the church of which he is a member, and come under the hands of the presbytery.—Mark 3:14; Acts 14:23; 1 Tim. 2:7 and 5:22; Heb. 5:4; John 4:2; Acts 8:28.

ART. 11. We believe in the resurrection of the dead and the general judgment.—John 5:28-29; Rev. 20:12-13; Acts 24:15

ART. 12 We believe the joys of the righteous and the punishment of the wicked will be eternal.—Matt. 25:46; Rev. 7:15 16; Col. 3:4; 1 Thess. 5:17; 2 Thess. 1:7-9; Rev. 20:10-14-15; Matt. 25:41-43.

ORDAINED MINISTERS AND THEIR POST OFFICES.

J. H. Colley	David,	Ala.
L. H. Hastie	Marble Valley,	"
T. A Kelley	Weoka,	"
D. S. Martin	Equality,	"
A G. Rains	Knights,	"
J. W. Fulmer	Mt. Olive,	"
W R Whatley	Alexander City,	"
O C. Swindall	Good Hope,	"
J. H. Thompson	Good Hope,	"
J M. Johnson	Dexter,	"
W. T. Stewman	Warm Springs,	"
J. H. Taylor	Tallassee,	"
William Harmon	Good Hope,	"
J. D. Hughes	Rockford,	"
A. C. Swindall	Dexter,	"
J. S. Jones	Bulger's Mills,	"
J. H. Singleton	Dexter,	"
J. C. Thomas	Titus,	"
C. J. Bentley	Buyck,	"
N. O. Dobbs	Sykes Mill,	"

LICENSED MINISTERS AND THEIR POST OFFICES.

J. C. Fulmer	Mt. Olive,	Ala.
Benj. W. Callaway	Rockford,	"
J. W. Jones	Goodwater,	"
J. R. Reems	Goodwater,	"
A. D. Harden	Tallassee,	"
E. W. Powell	Buyck,	"
Joseph Hand	Titus,	"
J. V. Clifton	Hollins,	"

CIRCULAR LETTER.

DEAR BRETHREN OF THE CENTRAL ASSOCIATION: As the duty was assigned me of preparing a circular letter, I devote myself to the task, feeling my inefficiency. My greatest difficulty has been in the selection of a theme, for, during a period of fifty years, almost every subject of importance has been presented. If I understand the object of a circular letter, it is to unify the churches and promote the interests of the great cause in which we are engaged. I have, therefore, selected as a theme "The Great Commission," believing, as I do, that we don't all understand, alike, our marching orders. Now, I believe that God is the great author of missions. He looked down

from his lofty habitation upon this sin-cursed world, and his great heart was moved with compassion for lost men. He loved, and therefore sent his Son. Yes, I believe that Christ was the first great foreign missionary. The Bible, God's Word, is a book of missions, a book of universal conquest for our King. Its prophecies, prayers, promises and precepts all teach this. Note just a few: "I will also give thee for a light to the Gentiles, that thou mayest be my salvation unto the end of the earth." "Blessed be the Lord God, the God of Israel who only doeth wondrous things, and blessed be his holy name forever, and let the whole earth be filled with his glory." "And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations." "And ye shall be witnesses unto me, both in Jerusalem and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and to the uttermost parts of the earth." "As my Father hath sent me, even so send I you." "Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature." "Ask of me and I shall give thee the heathen for thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for thy possession." But, brethren, this is Scripture enough. This work, like all other great enterprises, depends on activity, energy, persistence and the crucifixion of selfishness. Now, brethren, if we fail in the exercise of these, who knows but that persecution may arise to drive us into the Lord's work? The Apostles, yea, even Paul, did not want to go to foreigners. Christ sent them, and will send us, to all the world, to every creature.

"When they persecute you in one city, flee unto another," said the Master. And generally they waited till persecution came before they moved on. It was only after Saul "made havoc of the church, entering into every house and dragging men and women to prison and to death" "they scattered abroad, went everywhere, preaching the Word." So the fiery Herod drove laggard Peter from Jerusalem to Caesarea.

So Jewish malice or Gentile cruelty drove Paul from Damascus to Arabia, from Antioch to Pisidia, to Iconium, from Iconium to Derbe, from Derbe to Lystra, from Philippi to Thessalonica, from Thessalonica to Berea, from Berea to Athens, from Ephesus to Macedonia, from Jerusalem to Rome, from Rome to Heaven.

And so we are largely indebted to the European persecution for the establishment of missions in America It is a bloody and thrilling story, but I have not time to tell it. And even in this country how much we owe to the banishment of Roger Williams, the imprisonment of John Clark, the whipping of Obadiah Holmes, the whippings, fines and imprisonments inflicted on Virginia Baptists.

These all of an early day, with the recent imprisonment of our Dear Bro. Diaz, in Cuba, but emphasize the declaration of Paul in a similar experience: "But I would ye should understand, brethren, that the things which have happened unto me, have fallen out rather unto the furtherance of the gospel; so that my bonds in Christ are manifest in all the palace, and in all other places; and many of the brethren in the Lord, waxing confident by my bonds, are much more bold to speak the word without fear"

Brethren, I must say with all candor that we, as an Association, are not discharging our duty in this matter; we, with over three thousand and one hundred members are doing far less than our fathers did with six or eight hundred members. Do we love souls less than they? This great and wonderful progress made by our fathers in the early history of our Association was due mainly to obscure men. These men of no repute on earth, but honorable in heaven, were the brier cutters, creek swimmers, tree deadeners, ground breakers and seed planters.

Now, brethren, as we review the history of our worthy predecessors, may it inspire us to greater activity. D. S. MARTIN.

The Annual Meeting of the 2nd District will be held with Bethlehem church, beginning on Friday before the first Sunday in August, 1896.

FINANCIAL EXHIBIT OF CENTRAL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION, 1895.

CHURCHES.	Home Missions—Cash	Home Missions—Vouchers	Foreign Missions—Cash	Foreign Missions—Vouchers	State Missions—Cash	State Missions—Vouchers	Bible and Colportage—Cash	Bible and Colportage Vouchers	Indigent Ministers—Cash	Indigent Ministers—Vouchers	Ministerial Educat'n—Cash	Ministerial Educat'n—Vouchers	Minutes	Ass'n'l Purposes—Cash	Ass'n'l Purposes—V.	Orphans' Home—Cash	Orphans' Home—Vouchers	Home Benevolence—Cash	Home Benevolence—Vouchers	Pastor's Salary	Value of Church Building	Total Cash	Total Vouchers
Alexander City	$	$	$	$2 78	$	$ 3 80	$	$ 7 25	$	$	$	$3 25	$ 3 00	$62 60		$	$12 25	$	$	$	$	$ 65 60	$ 29 33
Antioch			3 00				2 50	1 25	2 00				1 70				4 43		5 00		200 00	9 70	10 68
Bethesda					4 00				1 53	1 22			1 50				1 75				350 00	7 03	2 97
Benlah				2 00									1 00									1 00	2 00
Bethlehem							15	2 05	1 95				1 50			2 30	3 65					5 90	5 70
County Line	25	1 00	25		2 25			1 00	25				1 00				1 00				300 00	4 00	3 00
Concord					6 85								1 00				3 15					7 85	3 15
Eclectic		1 00		1 20	5 67	76		1 46		1 28			1 50				3 00				500 00	7 17	8 70
Friendship			2 50						4 25				1 50	3 20								11 45	
Good Water					2 62	6 55			1 50				1 50				4 00				1000 00	5 62	10 55
Good Hope			2 00						1 00				1 25			1 25						5 50	
Hatchett Creek					5 00								1 00								200 00	6 00	
Harmony			3 15		5 00				3 25				2 00									13 40	
Liberty					2 50								1 00									3 50	
Lebanon		1 50		2 90		3 78		1 65	1 50		1 00		1 50	9 04			4 65		5 05		300 00	13 04	18 48
Mt. Olive					4 35	11 10							1 50								300 00	5 85	11 10
Mt. Zion			2 50		2 50					2 75			1 50									6 50	2 75
Macedonia	2 50				2 50								1 00				75					6 00	75
New Hope					2 50				4 45	1 30			1 50									8 45	1 30
New Providence													1 35							23 00	200 00	1 35	
Olive Branch			1 35					95					1 00			60					100 00	2 95	95
Poplar Springs													1 00									1 00	
Providence					2 50			1 70					1 65			2 85	3 15				500 00	7 00	4 85
Pleasant Hill			3 60	23									1 00								500 00	4 60	23
Pleasant Ridge					3 95								75									4 70	
Refuge													95									95	
Rockford	2 16		2 00		3 50								1 00			4 00						12 66	
Shiloh		1 05		1 40	2 00	3 00						1 50	1 00				1 53				400 00	3 00	8 48
Santuck	2 25		2 00										85		85	1 05	1 50					5 75	1 50
Salem													1 00									1 00	
Shady Grove							50		50				75	75		25						2 75	
Tallassee			4 20		3 50				3 00				3 00										
Town Creek			3 00		1 00				1 80				1 60			1 00				1 28	55	206 68	1500 00	13 70	
Union		50	1 50	50		5 16					1 50		1 50			1 50	4 50					51 25	300 00	8 40	
Union Springs	4 00		4 00		5 00				1 00				1 25								500 00	6 00	10 66
Wayside					2 50		2 50						85									15 25	
Corinth													50								150 00	5 85	
Public Collection																						50	
																						14 00	
Total	$11 16	$5 05	$37 45	$9 01	$69 39	$29 70	$5 65	$16 41	$35 06	$6 55	$2 50	$4 75	$49 05	$72 39	85	$15 30	$46 16					$298 86	$139 58
Grand Total																						$441 49	

STATISTICS OF CENTRAL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION, 1895.

	CHURCHES.	COUNTY.	PASTOR.	CLERK.	CLERK'S P. O.	Membership last Reported	Increase by Baptism	Increase by Letter	Increase by Voucher	Increase by Restoration	Decrease by Letter	Decrease by Exclusion	Decrease by Erasure	Decrease by Death	Present Membership.	S. S. Officers & Teachers	S. S. Pupils	Preaching Sabbaths.	Reports Prayer Meeting	Reports Revival
1	Alexander City	Tallapoosa	W. E. Lloyd	T. S. Christian	Alexander City	243	..	1	..	2	9	..	..	1	236	16	150	1 & 3	Weekly	Good
2	Antioch	Elmore	T. A. Kelley	J. R. Anthony	Buyck	90	11	3	..	..	2	1	..	..	102	6	40	1	Weekly	Good
3	Bethesda	Coosa	D. S. Martin	B. B. Martin	Equality	93	5	7	1	1	1	1	..	..	106	6	46	1	Weekly	Good
4	Beulah	Elmore	A. C. Swindall	W. G. Robertson	Wetumpka	60	2	..	..	1	6	1	..	..	58	..	..	1	Semi Mo	Good
5	Bethlehem	"	T. A. Kelley	R. L. Estes	Tallassee	99	7	6	..	..	3	10	..	1	98	..	..	4	Semi Mo	.....
6	County Line	"	W. A. Robertson	C. M. Moore	Irma	61	5	..	..	1	1	2	..	1	63	3	25	2	Weekly	Good
7	Concord	Coosa	D. S. Martin	J. C. Moseley	Gill	53	7	1	..	1	2	..	..	2	58	..	..	2	.....	Good
8	Ec'cetic	Elmore	D. S. Martin	C. F. Norton	Eclectic	136	12	7	..	1	10	..	..	4	142	4	27	4	Weekly	Good
9	Friendship	"	W. B. Harmon	J. L. Boatright	Good Hope	77	2	2	1	1	9	4	..	1	69	..	..	3	Weekly	.....
10	Goodwater	Coosa	L. H. Hastie	T. P. Cranford	Good Water	110	2	5	..	1	2	2	..	1	113	7	60	1	Weekly	.....
11	Good Hope	Elmore	J. M. Johnson	J. F. Timmerman	Good Hope	89	7	..	1	1	7	7	..	..	81	6	56	2	Weekly	Good
12	Hatchett Creek	Coosa	J. D. Hughes	R. C. Hardy	Dollar	75	..	3	..	..	5	5	..	..	68	..	..	1	.....	Good
13	Harmony	Elmore	A. C. Swindall	J. M. Graham	David	111	4	4	..	..	6	8	..	1	104	..	..	2	.....	Good
14	Liberty	Tallapoosa	L. H. Hastie	W. T. Goodwin	Bulger's Mill	106	5	..	..	2	..	..	..	1	106	..	..	3	Weekly	.....
15	Lebanon	Elmore	D. S. Martin	L. A. Ruffin	Buyck	94	5	7	..	..	2	..	..	2	102	6	45	3	Weekly	Good
16	Mt. Olive	Coosa	C. S. Johnson	W. C. Brown	Mt. Olive	149	..	2	..	1	3	4	..	..	145	6	56	1	.....	.....
17	Mt. Zion	Tallapoosa	R. A. J. Cumbie	J. N. Hancock	Bulger's Mill	50	9	1	..	3	3	1	..	..	59	..	..	1	Semi Mo	Good
18	Macedonia	Coosa	E. M. Moore	M. T Conaway	Hollins	75	3	1	..	..	4	..	..	..	75	..	..	4	Monthly	Good
19	New Hope	Tallapoosa	R. A. J. Cumbie	B. W Young	Bulger's Mill	65	24	2	..	2	3	..	..	3	87	..	..	2	.....	Good
20	New Providence	"	R. C. Conger	C. W. Harlan	Hackneyville	47	2	..	..	..	2	1	..	..	46	..	..	1	.....	.....
21	Olive Branch	Coosa	J. L. Neeley	W. Y. Keel	Salter	64	2	1	..	1	4	1	..	1	63	..	..	2	Semi Mo	Good
22	Poplar Springs	"	J. W. Fulmer	J. A. Smith	Hanover	51	..	..	..	1	15	..	..	..	37	..	..	2	.....	.....
23	Providence	"	T. A. Kelley	W. J. Steel	Traveler's Rest	100	22	6	..	4	5	5	..	..	122	..	..	3	.....	Good
24	Pleasant Hill	Elmore	W. B. Harmon	T. E. Brown	Eclectic	38	4	5	..	3	..	1	..	..	49	5	13	1	Weekly	.....
25	Pleasant Ridge	"	A. C. Swindall	W. S. Bush	Wetumpka	39	14	10	..	..	..	..	..	..	63	..	..	2	.....	.....
26	Refuge	"	A. C. Swindall	C. L. Griffith	Chanahatchie	73	2	1	..	..	3	..	..	..	73	6	40	3	.....	.....
27	Rockford	Coosa	W. R. Whatley	S. M. Suttle	Rockford	73	1	..	..	1	9	1	..	2	64	5	60	2	.....	.....
28	Shiloh	"	C. H. Morgan	W. S. Selman	Hissop	42	17	12	..	..	16	..	..	2	53	2	24	4	.....	Good
29	Sauttuck	Elmore	T. A. Kelley	W. J. Johnson	Dexter	76	11	3	1	1	18	6	..	2	64	..	..	2	.....	.....
30	Salem	Coosa	J. D. Hughes	W. C. Woodfin	Lyle	90	..	..	..	..	..	5	2	1	82	..	..	2	.....	.....
31	Shady Grove	"	N. O. Dobbs	J. B. Allen	Speed	37	6	..	..	..	1	..	..	1	41	..	..	4	S. S Mo	Good
32	Tallassee	Elmore	J. M. Johnson	O. H. Herring	Tallassee	164	45	34	..	13	9	3	..	3	241	18	200	1 & 3	Weekly	Good
33	Town Creek	"	J. D. Hughes	G. W. Ward	Titus	60	5	1	..	..	5	1	..	..	60	6	35	4	.....	Good
34	Union	"	J. M. Johnson	S F. Thomas	Central	90	5	1	..	..	3	3	4	..	86	..	..	4	.....	Good
35	Union Springs	Coosa	L. H. Hastie	O. P. Looney	Fayetteville	63	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	60	..	..	4	.....	.....
36	Wayside	"	N. O. Dobbs	J. H. Collins	Traveler's Rest	64	3	1	..	3*	3	1	..	1	66	..	..	1	Weekly	Good
37	*Corinth	"	C. H. Morgan	J. M. Conaway	Crewsville	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	17	..	..	..	.....	.....
	Total					2911	249	129	4	46	178	71	4	31	3171	102	877			

*Constituted during year.

S. S. Sup'ts Name and P. O. Addresses: Alexander City, P. A. Jackson, Alexander City, Ala.; Antioch, B. C. Gary, Weoka, Ala.; Bethesda, B. F. Harris, Equality, Ala.; County Line, B. T. Howle, Irma, Ala.; Eclectic, J. T. Edwards, Eclectic, Ala.; Good Water, W. H. Moon, Good Water, Ala.; Good Hope, W. B. Harmon, Good Hope, Ala.; Lebanon, C. J. Bentley, Buyck, Ala.; Mt. Olive, W. P. Fulmer, Mt Olive, Ala.; Pleasant Hill, T. E. Brown, Eclectic, Ala.; Refuge, C. L. Griffith, Chanahatchie, Ala; Rockford, T. J. Pennington, Rockford, Ala.; Shiloh, A. J. Thomas, Hissop, Ala.; Tallassee, J. J. Garrett, Tallassee, Ala.; Town Creek, A. T. Stanley, Buyck, Ala.

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